

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Cancelled):

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method for controlling
the calibration of an instrument, comprising:

4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
6 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
the instrument; and

8 when instrument calibration is past due:

10 ~~before the step of notifying a user that the calibration is past due,~~
12 activating a restriction inhibiting the instrument from making a
measurement, wherein the restriction is automatically activated by the
instrument;

14 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
16 is initiated automatically by the instrument; and

18 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
20 calibration instrument,

22 ~~before the step of making the measurement, manually~~
overriding the restriction; and

24 making the measurement;

26 otherwise:

28 removing the instrument from measurement service;

30 calibrating the instrument;

32 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
34 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due;

36 ~~after the step of updating the calibration history stored by the~~
instrument, removing the restriction inhibiting the instrument
from making a measurement; and

38 returning the instrument to measurement service;

40 otherwise:

42 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended):

2 The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the determination of
instrument calibration status is initiated at a preselected clock time.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended):

2 The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the determination of
instrument calibration status is initiated by the step of making the
measurement.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method for controlling
the calibration of an instrument, comprising:

4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
6 the instrument; and

8 when instrument calibration is past due:

10 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
12 is initiated automatically by the instrument;

14 ~~after the step of notifying a user that the calibration is past due,~~
~~obtaining the measurement uncertainty; and~~

16 ~~informing the user of the measurement uncertainty; and~~

18 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
20 calibration instrument,

22 making the measurement;

24 otherwise:

26 removing the instrument from measurement service;

28 calibrating the instrument;

30 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
32 returning the instrument to measurement service;
34 otherwise:
36 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling the calibration of
 an instrument, comprising:
4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
6 the instrument and wherein the step of determining instrument calibration
8 status comprises determining the calibration status for only those paths
 belonging to a sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument; and
10 when instrument calibration is past due:
12 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
 is initiated automatically by the instrument; and
14 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
16 calibration instrument,
18 making the measurement;
20 otherwise:
22 removing the instrument from measurement service;
24 calibrating the instrument;
26 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
28 returning the instrument to measurement service;
30 otherwise:
32 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 7 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the step of calibrating the
instrument comprises calibrating only those paths belonging to the sub-set of
all measurement paths of the instrument.

Claim 8 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of updating the calibration
history stored by the instrument comprises updating the calibration history
only for those paths belonging to the sub-set of all measurement paths of the
4 instrument.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling the calibration of
an instrument, comprising:
4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
6 the instrument and wherein the step of determining instrument calibration
status comprises determining the calibration status for only those types of
8 measurements belonging to a sub-set of all measurement types that the
instrument can make; and
10 when instrument calibration is past due:
12 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
14 is initiated automatically by the instrument; and
16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
18 calibration instrument,
20 making the measurement;
22 otherwise:
24 removing the instrument from measurement service;
26 calibrating the instrument;
28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
30 returning the instrument to measurement service;
32 otherwise:
34 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 10 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of calibrating the
instrument comprises calibrating only those types of measurements belonging
to the sub-set of all measurement types that the instrument can make.

Claim 11 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of updating the calibration
history stored by the instrument comprises updating the calibration history
only for those types of measurements belonging to the sub-set of all
4 measurement types that the instrument can make.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling the calibration of
an instrument, comprising:
4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
6 the instrument and wherein the step of determining instrument calibration
status comprises determining the calibration status for only frequencies
8 belonging to a sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for which the
instrument is capable of making a measurement; and
10 when instrument calibration is past due:
12 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
14 is initiated automatically by the instrument; and
16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
18 calibration instrument,
20 making the measurement;
22 otherwise:
24 removing the instrument from measurement service;
26 calibrating the instrument;
28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
30 returning the instrument to measurement service;

32 otherwise:

34 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 13 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of calibrating the
instrument comprises calibrating for only frequencies belonging to the sub-set
of all frequencies or frequency ranges for which the instrument is capable of
4 making a measurement.

Claim 14 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the step of updating the calibration
history stored by the instrument comprises updating the calibration history for
only frequencies belonging to the sub-set of all frequencies or frequency
4 ranges for which the instrument is capable of making a measurement.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended):

2 The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, further comprising:
4 at preselected times prior to calibration due time for the instrument, notifying
the user of calibration due time, wherein the notification is made automatically
by the instrument.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method for controlling
the calibration of an instrument, comprising:
4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
6 the instrument; and
8 when instrument calibration is past due:
10 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and
12 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
14 calibration instrument,
16 making the measurement;
18 otherwise:

20 removing the instrument from measurement service;
22 ~~before the step of calibrating the instrument,~~ obtaining
24 measurement history data for the instrument, wherein the
 measurement history is stored by the instrument;
26 calibrating the instrument;
28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
30 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
 returning the instrument to measurement service;
32 otherwise:
34 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 17 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of calibrating the
 instrument comprises calibrating those paths belonging to a sub-set of all
4 measurement paths of the instrument that conform to a preselected
 measurement history profile.

Claim 18 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of calibrating the
 instrument comprises calibrating those types of measurements belonging to a
 sub-set of all measurement types that the instrument can make that conform to
4 a preselected measurement history profile.

Claim 19 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of calibrating the
 instrument comprises calibrating those frequencies belonging to a sub-set of
 all measurement frequencies or frequency ranges for which the instrument is
4 capable of making a measurement that conform to a preselected measurement
 history profile.

Claim 20 (Cancelled):

Claim 21 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, further~~
 comprising: A computer readable memory device embodying a computer
 program of instructions executable by the computer, the instructions

4 comprising:

6 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
8 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
 the instrument; and

10 when instrument calibration is past due:

12 ~~before the instruction of notifying a user that the calibration is past due;~~
 activating a restriction inhibiting the instrument from making a
14 measurement, wherein the restriction is automatically activated by the
 instrument;

16 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
18 is initiated automatically by the instrument; and

20 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
22 calibration instrument,

~~before the instruction of making the measurement, manually~~
24 overriding the restriction; and

26 making the measurement;

28 otherwise:

30 removing the instrument from measurement service;

32 calibrating the instrument;

34 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
36 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due;

~~after the instruction of updating the calibration history stored by~~
38 ~~the instrument,~~ removing the restriction inhibiting the
 instrument from making a measurement; and

40 returning the instrument to measurement service;

42 otherwise:

44 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in ~~claim 20~~claim 21, wherein
 the determination of instrument calibration status is initiated at a preselected

clock time.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in ~~claim 20~~claim 21, wherein
the determination of instrument calibration status is initiated by the instruction
of making the measurement.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, further~~
3 ~~comprising:~~A computer readable memory device embodying a computer
4 program of instructions executable by the computer, the instructions
5 comprising:
6 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
7 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
8 the instrument; and
9 when instrument calibration is past due:
10 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
11 is initiated automatically by the instrument;
12 after the instruction of notifying a user that the calibration is past due,
13 obtaining the measurement uncertainty; and
14 informing the user of the measurement uncertainty;
15 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
16 calibration instrument,
17 making the measurement;
18 otherwise:
19 removing the instrument from measurement service;
20 calibrating the instrument;
21 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
22 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
23 returning the instrument to measurement service;
24 otherwise:
25 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20,~~ A computer
readable memory device embodying a computer program of instructions
executable by the computer, the instructions comprising:

4 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
6 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
the instrument and wherein the instruction of determining instrument
8 calibration status comprises determining the calibration status for only those
paths belonging to a sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument; and

10 when instrument calibration is past due:

12 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
14 is initiated automatically by the instrument; and

16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
calibration instrument,

18 making the measurement;

20 otherwise:

22 removing the instrument from measurement service;

24 calibrating the instrument;

26 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
28 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and

30 returning the instrument to measurement service;

32 otherwise:

34 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 26 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 25, wherein the
instruction of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating only those paths
belonging to the sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument.

Claim 27 (Original):

The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 26, wherein the

2 instruction of updating the calibration history stored by the instrument
comprises updating the calibration history only for those paths belonging to
4 the sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, A computer~~
readable memory device embodying a computer program of instructions
4 executable by the computer, the instructions comprising:

6 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
8 the instrument and wherein the instruction of determining instrument
calibration status comprises determining the calibration status for only those
types of measurements belonging to a sub-set of all measurement types that the
10 instrument can make; and

12 when instrument calibration is past due:

14 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and

16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
18 calibration instrument,

20 making the measurement;

22 otherwise:

24 removing the instrument from measurement service;

26 calibrating the instrument;

28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
30 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and

32 returning the instrument to measurement service;

34 otherwise:

maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 29 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 28, wherein the
instruction of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating only those types
of measurements belonging to the sub-set of all measurement types that the

4 instrument can make.

Claim 30 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 29, wherein the
instruction of updating the calibration history stored by the instrument
4 comprises updating the calibration history only for those types of
measurements belonging to the sub-set of all measurement types that the
instrument can make.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 29;~~ A computer
readable memory device embodying a computer program of instructions
4 executable by the computer, the instructions comprising:
determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
6 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
the instrument and wherein the instruction of determining instrument
8 calibration status comprises determining the calibration status for only
frequencies belonging to a sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for
10 which the instrument is capable of making a measurement; and
12 when instrument calibration is past due:
14 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and
16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
18 calibration instrument,
20 making the measurement;
22 otherwise:
24 removing the instrument from measurement service;
26 calibrating the instrument;
28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
30 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
32 returning the instrument to measurement service;
34 otherwise:
maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 32 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 31, wherein the
instruction of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating for only
4 frequencies belonging to the sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for
which the instrument is capable of making a measurement.

Claim 33 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 32, wherein the
instruction of updating the calibration history stored by the instrument
comprises updating the calibration history for only frequencies belonging to
4 the sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for which the instrument is
capable of making a measurement.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in ~~claim 20~~claim 21, further
comprising:
4 at preselected times prior to calibration due time for the instrument, notifying
the user of calibration due time, wherein the notification is made automatically
6 by the instrument.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, further~~
~~comprising:~~ A computer readable memory device embodying a computer
4 program of instructions executable by the computer, the instructions
comprising:
6 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made
8 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by
the instrument; and
10 when instrument calibration is past due:
12 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and
14 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-
16 calibration instrument,
18 making the measurement;
20 otherwise:

22 removing the instrument from measurement service;
24 ~~before the step of calibrating the instrument,~~ obtaining
26 measurement history data for the instrument, wherein the
28 measurement history is stored by the instrument;
30 calibrating the instrument;
32 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to
34 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and
36 returning the instrument to measurement service;

38 otherwise;
40 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 36 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 35, wherein the step
4 of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating those paths belonging to a
 sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument that conform to a
 preselected measurement history profile.

Claim 37 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 35, wherein the step
4 of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating those types of
 measurements belonging to a sub-set of all measurement types that the
 instrument can make that conform to a preselected measurement history
 profile.

Claim 38 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 35, wherein the step
4 of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating those frequencies belonging
 to a sub-set of all measurement frequencies or frequency ranges for which the
 instrument is capable of making a measurement that conform to a preselected
 measurement history profile.

Claims 39-40 (Cancelled):